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1. Preface

Within a short time this book became the most accepted standard teaching media of the Swiss drum technique. In the meantime its popularity grows to an international high profile.

The Swiss drum art is based on Basel style drumming that is recorded from 1332. From 14th to the 18th century and during the times the Swiss style has been influenced by French elements and has been continually refined. From the early times, some of the drummers were sharing their music in foreign military services within Europe. That's why you can find the one or the other of the traditional Swiss rudiments named in French. Today, still Swiss fifers and drummers are playing in the Swiss Guard of the Pope in Rome.

In the more recent past, the Swiss style drumming is also influenced from British, Scottish and Irish melodies.

Since 40 years a close connection between American Ancient Style and Swiss Drummers can be noticed. Regularly Swiss and American fifers and drummers and corps are visiting in their continents, playing together, learning from each other and maintaining a universal friendship. Some of the most influential corps over the time are: The Ancient and Swiss Mariners/ CT, Lancraft FDC/CT, the CT Patriots, MCV FDC/Boston, the Swiss Regimentals and the Swiss Rebels from Basel. Highlights of the international estimation were the visits from more than 100 musicians of the Swiss Fifers and Drummers Association 1970 and 1997 at the Deep River Musters and the Company of Fifers and Drummers in CT.

During all the times drumming has been an archetype expression of a specific culture on one hand as well as an international language that is influenced by foreign styles and has the power to bring people from all over the world together in a exchange of global understanding. In this tradition and spirit we are proud to offer this book to all drummers who are interested in Swiss style drumming and like to share with us our music.

With this book including the compact disc you are able to learn and practice by your own. However, we recommend attending a drum instructor of a drum corps or a drumming association. A drum instructor can be very helpful with his know-how and his experience. He can show you different ways to become better and get faster to the aim.

While learning the various rudiments, you'll get to know at the same time relevant rhythms, the dynamics of the Swiss style and our way of notation. Rehearsing with this book finally enables you to read and drum all the compositions and marches of traditional Swiss drumming. Some examples from all the Swiss areas and during the times assist you practice drumming. If you want to know more about notation theory or the whole rudiment collection, have a look at the theory pages at the end of the book. If you get fire in Swiss drumming and you are looking for more music, we recommend you our music collections (www.stpv-astf.ch).

We are happy to welcome you as a Swiss style drummer and wish you a lot of pleasure and satisfaction. Enjoy our music!

Musical Committee SDFA
Oliver Fischer
Chairman since 2007

Musical Committee SDFA
Victor Mueller-Oppliger,
Chairman 1998 - 2006

The SDFA and its local confederations are conducting periodical courses in playing the instruments, drum leading and special trainings for experts and judges (go to: www.stpv-astf.ch).